

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WATERSHED SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date/Location: Friday, March 21, 2003
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Jones & Stokes
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA

Meeting Attendees: See Attachment A

Meeting Handouts: See Attachment B

Welcome and Introductions

Martha Davis, Watershed Subcommittee Co-chair, began the meeting with a welcome and round of introductions of all meeting participants (see Attachment A) and relayed Robert Meacher's apologies for his absence. Martha then made some general announcements:

- Any comments or suggestions regarding the previous meeting's summary should be directed to Sara Martin (smartin@jsanet.com).
- The Watershed Program has a new Listserve, and anyone who would like to sign up for mailings or did not receive the announcements for the current meeting should contact Kristin Warren (kwarren@jsanet.com).

Watershed Program Updates

John Lowrie, Watershed Program Manager, provided the subcommittee with updates from the California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) and the Watershed Program.

- CBDA
Appointments to the CBDA Board of Directors are being made. There are 24 total positions in the CBDA Board of Directors; some are agency representatives, and some are public representatives. The Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) retains the responsibility of advising the implementing agencies, and will advise the CBDA Board as well.

Martha added that the Machado hearing, which was conducted to define the role of the public advisory committees, determined that the CBDA public advisory committees are indeed useful, integral parts of CBDA, as they provide the Authority with a substantial connection to the public, which keeps the programs vital. The relationship between the

subcommittees and the BDPAC will not change as a result of the establishment of the Authority. The lines of communication will operate as follows:

Subcommittee → BDPAC → CBDA

The BDPAC will report to the CBDA at the Authority's public meetings six times per year.

In addition, the CBDA will implement a regional coordinating effort in each of the five CBDA regions to coordinate the activities of all the CBDA programs on a regional level. These regional coordinators will hold forums where CBDA programs can form connections and partner with local groups at a local scale for planning and implementation. More information is available in the Watershed Update document.

The CBDA is establishing a BDPAC meeting schedule for the rest of 2003. The tentative schedule is as follows:

May 15	First meeting of the CBDA in Sacramento
June 5	BDPAC meeting in Sacramento
June 11–12	2 nd meeting of CBDA to review BDPAC program plans
August 14	CBDA meeting
September 10–11	BDPAC meeting in the Bay Area
October 9	CBDA meeting
December 11	Joint meeting of the CBDA and BDPAC

When the dates are confirmed, they will appear on the CBDA website in the Public Involvement section.

A member of the subcommittee inquired about the role of the federal government in the CBDA. Mr. Lowrie explained that there are federal seats in the CBDA but that they are ex-officio until authorized by the federal agencies to participate. The federal seat-holders are thus at this time interacting, but not voting, members of the CBDA.

- Watershed Program Funding

As of Wednesday, March 19, a consolidated request for proposals (RFP) has been released. The RFP is a joint effort by the CBDA, USEPA, California Coastal Commission, and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), who will be handle the contracts. The funding sources include money from Prop 50, Prop 13, and federal Clean Water Act section 319. This may be the last round of funding with Prop 13 funds.

The RFP process will include a conceptual proposal stage and a full proposal stage, much like last year's RFP, just as the subcommittee recommended at February's meeting. John thanked the SWRCB for listening to and implementing the subcommittee's suggestions, as the subcommittee is made up of representatives from the groups who will be submitting proposals. Concept proposals will be due May 9.

The funds available for assessment and capacity-building projects will be much more substantial this year, as all of the Prop 50 funds can be used for such projects. Anywhere from \$15 million to \$20 million of the Prop 50 funds may be used on assessment, monitoring, and capacity-building projects. A total of \$15.1 million from Prop 13, targeted toward implementation projects, will be available for small, economically disadvantaged communities. Note that the requirements for communities to meet this “disadvantaged” criterion have been revised according to the 2000 census data. Mr. Lowrie encouraged applicants to do the calculations for their own communities even if they are not listed as disadvantaged in the RFP. They still may qualify.

No priority will be given to returning proposals; however, returnees are welcomed. Mr. Lowrie recommended that applicants read through the text of Prop 13 and 50 to gain a better understanding of the funding requirements.

Martha Davis mentioned that the proposal- and grant-writing guidelines from a workshop put on by SWRCB contract staff would be a great help. Ken Coulter said he would try to track down a copy of those guidelines.

Further information, such as schedules and the RFP itself, can be found on the SWRCB website (www.swrcb.ca.gov) under the “new funding” link.

- Watershed Partnerships Seminar

Dennis Bowker announced that the CALFED Watershed Program Watershed Partnerships Seminar, which brings together legislators, managers, and agency representatives to learn strategies and tools for working effectively in community-based and locally-led watershed management, scheduled for April 7–18 is completely full. The Watershed Program received more than twice as many nominations as there are available spaces. He thanked everyone for their interest in and support of these seminars.

- SB 23 Funding Update

Martha Davis updated the subcommittee on the future of SB 23 funds, which were used to fund the first round of Watershed Program grants. The money was allocated to the Watershed Program for disbursement in 2000, and these funds will technically disappear in June 2003, as General Fund money has a 3-year statutory limit. This is unfortunate for grantees whose contracts were not executed until the end of 2002; they cannot be expected to complete their projects in less than a year.

DWR Director Hannigan wrote Ms. Davis a letter promising that DWR will take all of the SB 23 General Fund monies and put them into the revolving fund so it can continue to be used to fund first-round grantees after June 2003. However, DWR is now suggesting that they will take the SB 23 monies and swap them out for Prop 50 dollars. In essence, this means that first-round grantees will still receive funds, but the funds will be come straight from Prop 50 and depleting money available for future grants.

Ms. Davis feels that the Subcommittee should attempt to protect the SB money and make

sure DWR's intentions are made clear and public. The Watershed Program is not the only program to be affected by this DWR plan. She suggested making the issue of promises made and not kept a focus at Watershed Education Day.

- **Environmental Justice Talk on Mercury and Fish Consumption**

Ken McGhee, the CBDA Environmental Justice Coordinator, announced that the EJ Subcommittee will host a talk by James Weiner on March 26 entitled "Mercury Strategy for the Bay-Delta Ecosystem: A Unifying Framework for Science, Adaptive Management, and Ecological Restoration." The talk will take place from 6 to 8 PM. at the Resources Building in Sacramento.

Statewide Watershed Management Issues

- **Status of the California Watershed Management Strategic Plan**

Ken Coulter announced that CalEPA and the Resources Agency have nearly completed a first draft of the Watershed Management Strategic Plan. The document is approximately 40 pages long, is structured around 11 initiatives, and contains a new introduction to answer questions brought up at the February Watershed Subcommittee meeting. The initiatives will be addressed over a 3-year period (refer to handout "Draft WMSP Initiatives Implementation Plan").

A Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting with stakeholders will be held April 30 in Sacramento from 11 AM to 4PM to discuss any issues they may have. The steering committee is trying to get more representatives from the Joint Task Force for Watershed Management to RSVP for attendance at the meeting. Anyone else interested in attending can contact Mr. Coulter to RSVP. In addition, Ken is willing to send out a draft of the plan to anyone who would like to comment on it. For a copy of the plan, contact Mr. Coulter (COULK@dwq.swrcb.ca.gov), Mr. Lowrie (lowrie@calwater.ca.gov), or Mary Lee Knecht (mknecht@jsanet.com).

Laurel Ames encouraged the subcommittee to get involved in this, as it is a rare occasion that the general public has an opportunity to comment on what the state agencies are up to.

The subcommittee expressed strong interest in scheduling a meeting before the April 30 workshop in order to review the strategic plan, call out issues, discuss them, and send a representative to the workshop with clear opinions and ideas to express to the steering committee. Mr. Coulter stressed to the group that the plan is in draft form and at this point is taking only a very "big picture" view of all the issues.

- **Proposition 40 MOU**

Renee Hoyos announced that because no money will go out from Prop. 40 until the Memorandum of Understanding is signed, the legislative deadline of April 30 for a completed MOU must be met. Several subcommittee members expressed the sentiment that some caution needs to be taken in writing the MOU to ensure that it does not memorialize certain procedures and requirements and limit too severely the distribution

of funds. Ms. Hoyos pointed out that where Prop. 40 money is wholly dedicated to capital outlay projects, and some Prop. 50 money could be used for planning and assessment, swaps between the two are still possible.

Presentation of a CALFED-Funded Watershed Project

Parry Klassen, Executive Director of the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES), presented an update of their Watershed Program-funded project, the goal of which is to promote farming best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate OP (organophosphate) pesticide runoff into the Sacramento River watershed and Sacramento Valley “macro-watershed.” CURES is raising awareness among orchard growers about runoff problems and impending RWQCB water quality regulations, such as Pesticide total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs, and Irrigation Return Flow Conditional Waivers. CURES holds presentations at grower meetings and provides two publications to orchard growers—a self-assessment of pesticide use to be done in collaboration with consultants, and a water steward package, which describes surface water-friendly orchard practices. CURES is also tracking the adoption of BMPs.

During the first season (the winter of 2002–2003), CURES gave 13 presentations, each 40–60 minutes long, to approximately 1,115 growers and crop consultants. There are two more seasons left in the project, and CURES hopes to reach even more growers each year. A grower pesticide practices survey was mailed to 1,600 orchard growers in mid-November 2002, and to date, CURES has received a 22% response. They will begin compilation and analysis of the data in April and will send out a second round of surveys in 2004 to determine changes in level of BMP adoption and to gauge program effectiveness. The current round of survey results will be used to adaptively manage and direct upcoming activities and BMP promotion efforts, as well as future outreach efforts.

CURES is part of a group of agencies (including the Northern California Water Association, the Farm Bureau, County Agricultural Commissioners, Ducks Unlimited, and Wildlife Refuges) working together to form a Sacramento Valley Watershed Group irrigators who will apply for a group Irrigation Return Flow Waiver, which means that individual irrigators will not need to file individual waste discharge requirements.

Martha Davis asked whether CURES has considered working with students in some kind of educational unit where they could assess their own (parents’) fields. Mr. Klassen responded that, at the current time, the money is better spent on crop consultants but that education is a good idea for the next grant. Pia Sevelius pointed out that there are already some grants available focusing on education of children, and all CURES would need to do is to share their information with these groups.

Renee Hoyos asked what the “urban” in Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship was all about. Mr. Klassen referred the subcommittee to the CURES website (www.curesworks.org) to see the many urban runoff publications created by the coalition.

Development of Program Plan for Year 4

Stefan Lorenzato announced that the Interagency Watershed Advisory Team, in coordination with the subcommittee, has been working to sketch the workplan for year 4. Priorities include:

- subcommittee meetings,
- roadshows,
- grant programs,
- watershed coordinators,
- outreach,
- communication and coordination, and
- program administration.

Martha Davis mentioned that she would like to see considerations in the Program Plan to help watershed representatives with expenses to get them to the subcommittee meetings, bringing watershed concerns to those meetings and bringing updates back to their watersheds.

Watershed Updates

- Laurel Ames announced that Watershed Education Day would be take place on Wednesday, April 2, at 8 AM, at 744 P Street.
- Ms. Ames also called attention to some new legislation. AB 866 (Pavley) has been amended to add fundable activities (water conservation, water use efficiency, and water supply reliability). AB 1405 (Wolk) and AB 407 (Harman) both focus on establishing statewide watershed policy. For more information on legislation, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov. A member of the subcommittee reminded everyone to send an opinion letter each time a hearing is held on a bill, as the old letters do not follow the bill throughout multiple hearings.
- There are two new water bonds up for vote this year, 93 and 21.
- The 3rd annual North Bay Watershed Association Water Conference will be held Friday, April 4 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Viansa Winery in Sonoma. For more information, e-mail the NBWA at nbwa@rmcengr.com.
- Caltrans has finally approved highway watershed designation signs for the North Coast.
- Vieva Swearingen announced that the Cottonwood Watershed Group has received a grant from CVPIA to do a California red-legged frog inventory survey.
- Stefan Lorenzato announced that Caltrans and DWR have signed a contract to begin culvert assessments in the Central Coast area starting in April, with a follow-up in the fall. The North Coast phase has already been completed.
- The Upper Merced River Watershed will host a celebration of their watershed on April 12 with wildflower history hikes, art on the river, and fly-fishing. For more information, contact Holly Warner or Nancy McConnell at watershed@sti.net.
- Dan Wermiel reminded the subcommittee that the CBDA is moving to new Capitol Mall offices at the beginning of April. Their phones and e-mail will be down during the week

of April 1 and will be back up April 7. The e-mail addresses will change slightly, with a new domain “@calwater.ca.gov.”

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a roadshow tour of the lower Mokelumne River watershed, led by John Brodie of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District. The tour will be held on the fourth Friday of April. Times and locations will follow.

Attachment A

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Alcott, Rob	Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Ames, Laurel	California Watershed Network
Ballentine, Linda	Westside Resource Conservation District
Bowker, Dennis	CA Bay-Delta Authority—Watershed Program
Brodie, John	San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Cady, Casey Walsh	CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Clark, Scott	US Army Corps of Engineers
Cornelius, Jim	Calaveras County Water District
Cornwall, Caitlin	Sonoma Ecology Center
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Davis, Martha	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Deen, Alisha	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water/UFW
Farina, Sarah	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Freeman, Robin	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water/Merritt College
Gallegos, Tony	Lake County Public Works
Harter, Rick	LASGRWC
Haze, Steve	Millerton Watershed
Hoyos, Renee	CA Resources Agency
Klassen, Parry	CURES
Laychek, Eugenia	California Bay-Delta Authority
Leininger, Chris	Ducks Unlimited
Lorenzato, Stefan	CA Department of Water Resources
Lowrie, John	California Bay-Delta Authority
Lunt, Tina	Cosumnes River Task Force
Martin, Sara	Jones & Stokes
McConnell, Nancy	Upper Merced River Watershed
Roberts, Ken	SRS
Rush, Andrew	CA Department of Conservation
Sevelius, Pia	Butte County
Sime, Fraser	Department of Water Resources
Smith, Lynda	Metropolitan Water District
Swearingen, Vieve	Cottonwood Watershed Group
Warburton, Michael	Public Trust Alliance/Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Warner, Holly	Upper Merced River Watershed
Warren, Kristin	Jones & Stokes
Wermiel, Dan	California Bay-Delta Authority

MEETING MATERIALS

- Meeting agenda
- Previous meeting draft summary
- AB 1405 (Wolk)
- AB 407 (Harman)
- AB 866 (Pavley)
- Draft WMSP Initiatives Implementation Path
- Water Steward: Sacramento and Feather Rivers
- Agriculture and Water Quality: Protecting Our Water Resources